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GOVERNOR

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
ENTERPRISE PROCUREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
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PUBLIC NOTICE

November 30, 2005

RE: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The State of Arizona, Department of Administration, Enterprise Procurement Services, is pleased to announce its intent to issue the following Request for Proposals (RFP).

- **EPS060043, NETWORKING EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES**

The State will publish the RFP via its online eProcurement system, SPIRIT, at www.spirit.az.gov. Prospective offerors interested in receiving automatic notification of this solicitation should be sure they are registered in SPIRIT under the following Commodity Code number, 0206-0064, Network Components: Adapter Cards, Bridges, Connectors, Expansion Modules/Ports, Hubs, Line Drivers, MSAUs, Routers, Transceivers, etc.

Although the State anticipated publication of this solicitation by the end of November, subsequent to a focus group meeting involving various agency representatives and stakeholders, it was determined necessary to postpone its publication for another month to allow for the furthered development of the requirement. The State anticipates issuance of the RFP in the next few weeks. Any questions in this regard shall be addressed to the Procurement Officer.

In finalizing the provisions of the RFP, the State seeks feedback from prospective offerors, the industry and any interested parties on the following items. All respondents shall identify themselves and provide contact information including a contact person, phone number and e-mail address. Responses shall be concise (generally not longer than two pages) and limited to the items requested herein. Responses shall be owned by the State. The State shall not be limited regarding the use of any response data and makes no guarantee, implied or expressed, regarding the use of the material submitted via these responses. All responses shall be public record upon their acceptance by the State. Please submit responses to the Procurement Officer, james.scarboro@azdoa.gov. Responses are due Friday, December 16, 2005.

Responses shall not contain confidential data. Issuance of this Request for Comments (RFC) shall not be construed as an offer, nor shall any response be considered an offer or acceptance of an offer. Submission of a response shall neither preclude a respondent from participating in any forthcoming solicitation in this regard, nor shall it benefit them in any such solicitation.

Item One. Products and Services.

The State seeks feedback on the categorization of products and services sought in the RFP and resulting contracts. Specifically, we seek feedback on the products and services descriptions, their appropriateness and completeness given the category in which they reside. The State also seeks feedback on the categories used to group the products and services, their intuitiveness and their ability to accommodate the inclusion of technological development amongst the products and services they encompass, throughout the term of any resulting contracts.

Item Two. Manufacturer-Channel Partner Contractors

The State seeks feedback regarding approaches to Contractor management when multiple awards within the same set of Contracts may include manufacturers as well as their respective resellers and/or channel partners. The State is concerned about any collusion that may occur during the development of their proposals. The State is also concerned about the allocation of work or orders that may occur between the Contractors based on these relationships. The State seeks to optimize the opportunities of all Contractors subsequently awarded, while minimizing our role in their subcontractual and business relationships.

Item Three. Network Management and Legacy Support Services

The State seeks feedback on the feasibility any advantages associate with the inclusion of network management and legacy support services for established and/or older systems not purchased under any resulting contracts. Currently, IT maintenance is not covered under any statewide contracts for the purpose of supporting hardware, networks or systems, that were not also bought under the same contract (services are available but the hardware must have been purchased under the same contract). Can all or most manufacturers be covered? Would the pricing still be advantageous as compared to individual competitive actions per requirement (RFQs or RFPs)? Are there other states or local governments with similar contracts that we may look to for reference?

Thank you for your consideration of the aforementioned and for any feedback you may provide in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James Scarboro", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Scarboro, C.P.M., A.P.P., CPPB
Strategic Contracts Manager